

**John Charles Pierce:**

Senior Choir Director's Word of Introduction  
(September 2012)

My name is John Pierce. I am honored to have been chosen as the Senior Choir Director at Concordia, and look forward to sharing in your worship. I moved to Duluth this summer with my wife of 31 years, Alice, who has joined the faculty at UMD teaching voice and directing opera. We came here from Kalamazoo, Michigan, where Alice was doing the same thing at Western Michigan University. We have two college age children. Melissa is studying violin at DePaul University in Chicago, and was married this summer to our new son-in-law, Jeffrey, a professional oboist. Our son, Nathaniel, is studying cello at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. We also have a little dog, Freddy, that we saved from a shelter in Cottbus, Germany.



Yes, Alice and I lived and worked in Germany for many years. We were both full-time singers for ten years at the Brandenburg State Theater in Cottbus. I suppose that was the pinnacle of our singing careers. We were able to appear in many operas together, even singing Tony and Maria in *West Side Story* together. Most of the time, one or the other of us was caring for children while the other one was working. Very often I was able to sing around Germany while Alice kept the home fires burning. After leaving Germany, I actually sang in many of other countries as well. Now, it is my turn to keep the house in shape, while Alice is working the endless hours of a college professor. Oh, I am also teaching private voice as a part-timer at UMD.

I was born in Woodstock, Illinois, the son of music educators. My dad was my High School Band and Chorus director. I was educated in music at the University of Illinois and Indiana University. Alice is from Lafayette, Indiana. We have lived in many parts of the USA, but count ourselves blessed to have finally landed in a corner of the country that seems like paradise to us.

Finally, I want to invite anyone who has a hankering to sing, to join us in the choir loft! I think I can speak for the choir, in that we will all be glad to help incorporate new members into the group. We are all up there doing the best we can with the gifts we have been blessed with. You might be surprised at your own musical gift! Come on up! We have a lot of fun.